



CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM III
'Elevating the 2018 theme of the Year of Combating Corruption in Africa'

**5-6 July, 2018 Pan African Parliament,
Midrand, Johannesburg, South Africa**

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2018
**Combating
Corruption**
A Sustainable Path to Africa's Transformation

CALL TO ACTION

WE members of Civil Society Organisations, the Pan African Parliament (PAP), the AU Advisory Board on Corruption (AUABC), and other Pan African institutions, met in Midrand, South Africa, to deliberate on our collective efforts to combat corruption in Africa, conclude as follows:

AFFIRMING that Africans have consistently called for the end of corruption at all levels of society and have called for more decisive actions for the protection of public resources and for more visible punitive actions to be taken against all who are involved in fraud, corruption and illicit flows of resources, without regards to status, position or affiliation.

APPRECIATING the adoption of a *Declaration on the African Anti-Corruption Year* at the AU Summit of the 1st - 2nd July 2018, held in Mauritania and in particular the emphasis that has been placed on combatting illicit financial flows, declaration of assets by public personalities, the ending of banking secrecy, recovering stolen assets and the empowerment of national anti-corruption bodies and the African Advisory Board on Corruption.

RECOGNISING the active and ongoing engagement of Civil Society Organisations in regional and local efforts to fight corruption, promote relevant AU declaration and convention on corruption, and engage in activities related to the Year of Combating Corruption and Africa Anti-Corruption Day on the 11th July, under the overall theme of '*Combating Corruption: A sustainable Path to Africa's Future*';

ACKNOWLEDGING that the African Union (AU) has elevated combatting corruption, and promoting a culture of transparency and inclusive political and economic governance by demonstrating a resolve through its declarations, treaties and the establishment of organs mandated to assist in combating graft; elevating a culture of accountability and citizen participation;

ESCALATING the importance of building further momentum around the establishment of a wider coalition of all stakeholders for the return of stolen assets and through this ensuring substantive participation of regional and local Civil Society Organizations in formulating a Common African Position on Asset Recovery.

COMMENDS Professor Thuli Modensela, the former Public Protector of South Africa, for being the recipient of the Civil Society conferred African Anti-Corruption Crusader Award of 2018, for the courage she demonstrated in her work as Public Protector and for the services she rendered and continuous to render to the people of South Africa and the Continent in the fight against corruption;

APPLAUD the ongoing efforts of the African Union Assembly, the Pan African Parliament and the AU Advisory Board on Corruption to ensure State Party compliance with and implementation of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combatting Corruption;

PLEDGE ongoing support to the efforts of the AU, the Advisory Board on Corruption, relevant Organs and Institutions, and Regional Economic Communities in fighting the scourge of corruption and in securing accountability over the use of public resources across all Member States of the African Union;

RECALLING resolutions and decisions adopted at the first and second Civil Society Forums and ongoing efforts of civil society to elevate the fight against corruption and to hold Member States accountable with respect to their regional, continental and global commitments to fight corruption and hold those who engage in corruption, fraud and illicit transfer of resources accountable;

RECOGNIZING that corruption and illicit financial flows threaten our goals to end poverty and hunger and to achieve sustainable development through promoting inclusive economic growth, protecting the environment and promoting social inclusion;

CALLS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

1. Reaffirm the importance of fighting corruption by exposing all local, national, regional occurrences of fraud, corruption and illicit flows of resources, together with all any actions which point towards the capture of public institutions for purely private illicit and fraudulent interests.
2. Engage urgently with the matter of corruption in national and local elections by way of urgently implementing and utilizing the guidelines provided by the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights as it pertains to accessing Information on Elections.
3. Finalize as soon as possible the proposed amendments to the Convention on Preventing and Combatting Corruption as a strategy for ensuring that the Advisory Board on Corruption functions effectively and is able to competently implement the mandate established within the Convention.
4. Speedily work towards wider civil society participation in the finalization of a draft proposed 'Questionnaire' for State Party reporting on the Convention and the draft Rules of Procedure for Civil Society engagement on the Convention for submission to the AU Advisory Board on Corruption.
5. Engage with relevant regional stakeholders to secure deeper and more sustained participation for Civil Society in the fight against illicit flows and in efforts towards securing the return of resources derived from fraud, corruption and illicit flow of resources.
6. Encourage all institutions involved in the fight against corruption and illicit flows of resources to share information with civil society to facilitate the recovery of stolen assets and to ensure that returned assets are used appropriately for the peoples of the Continent.

7. Demand that regional institutions and all other stakeholders work towards the protection of whistle-blowers and ensuring that the media is able to function optimally in their efforts to expose corruption and provide the citizens with information pertaining to the flows of resources within and across national boundaries.
8. Urge the African Development Bank (AfDB) to consider providing direct and urgent support to the Civil Society established Multi-Sectorial Working Group for ongoing partnership work related to the implementation of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combatting Corruption.
9. Endeavour to establish the African Anti-Corruption Crusader Award (AACCA) as a permanent feature of the Civil Society Forum and as a means for appreciating positive and exemplary efforts of individuals or organizations active in the fight against corruption.
10. Work towards a joint exercise by Civil Society and Parliamentarians, especially Members of PAP and African Parliamentary Network Against Corruption (APNAC) Chapter countries to undertake anti-corruption activities and initiatives over one whole week as a means for ensuring deeper and wider public participation and engagement.

THE FORUM FURTHER EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN with reports of gender discrimination at the level of the African Union Commission, media reports on corruption and management difficulties at the level of the African Union Commission, the Pan African Parliament and the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption, **AND CALLS UPON** all stakeholders to work urgently towards speedy and credible investigations directed at securing and restoring the credibility of all affected African institutions.

CALLS UPON all civil society organization, partner organizations, AU Organs and Member States, and all other interested and vested stakeholders to support the **CALL FOR ACTION** by the Civil Society Forum III and engage more actively in ensuring the success of the fight against corruption.

**Done on this 6th Day of July, 2018 at the Pan African Parliament in Midrand, Johannesburg,
Republic of South Africa**